**Development of Maritime sector**

1011. SHRIMATI S.G.WDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a comprehensive policy for the development of Maritime sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that more than thirty recommendations made by States were adopted at the meeting of the Maritime State Development Council; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The comprehensive policy seeks to combine vision and strategy for the sector through harmonious and coordinated development of country's maritime assets like ports, shipping, inland water transport systems and ship building and ship repair industries. The policy will facilitate holistic development of the maritime sector.

(c) and (d) The Maritime States Development Council (MSDC) under the Chairmanship of Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways discussed various issues of common interest by the participants including representatives from the Maritime States and Union Territories during its meeting held in Bhubaneswar on 10.11.2005 and made 33 recommendations on the following issues:

(i) Need to hold MSDC meetings frequently.

(ii) Concessions to young boys from fishermen community in undergoing seafarers training.

(iii) Acceptance of hydrographical surveys done by private agencies.

(iv) Land to Directorate General of Lighthouse and Lightships and Directorate General of Shipping.

(v) Barge policy.

(vi) Draft Maritime Policy for the maritime sector.

(vii) Viability gap fund scheme.

(viii) Amendment in the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908 and allied issues.

(ix) Proposal to declare new National Waterway No. 5.

(x) Environmental clearance for port projects.

(xi) Impounded foreign fishing vessels.

(xii) Wireless communication.

(xiii) Functioning of Port Health Officer and plant quarantine organization on holidays.

(xiv) Constitution of State Maritime Boards and representation to Navy and Coast Guard.

(xv) Preference in appointment of captains of ports.

(xvi) Perspective Plans and development of port facilities at Lakshadweep and Vizhinjam Harbour.

(xvii) Concessional tax regime.

(xviii) Coastal Shipping.

(xix) Oil spill contingency plan.

(xx) Shore reception facilities.

(xxi) Central Government assistance for undertaking Hydrographic Survey of Minor Ports.

(xxii) Setting up of two international shipyards.

(xxiii) Fixing of IV limits.

(xxiv) Assistance for development of minor ports.

(xxv) Consulting Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs regarding visit of foreign security personnel to ports.

(xxvi) Including representative of Maritime States in Navigational Safety in Ports Committee (NSPC).

(xxvii) Amendment of IVAct and framing of rules thereunder.

(xxviii) Customs duty exemption for ship-breaking industry.

(xxix) Marking of light, buoys and wrecks on the hydrographic maps.

(xxx) 'Port of Refuge' and Crisis Management.

(xxxi) Sharing of infrastructure with minor ports.

(xxxii) Study for security and disaster measures.

(xxxiii) Exemption from payment of Income Tax to Major Ports and Maritime Board**s.**